

him why he had not given the post to Bourrienne, who suited him. Talleyrand explained the matter with his usual non-chalance, and the reason is so characteristic of the Government which replaced Napoleon that it is worth giving. "Certainly," answered Talleyrand; "but how could it be done? Bourrienne was not there. He was returning from Hamburg" (where he had been sent by the King instead of staying at Ghent) "in a bad *calecke*. A wheel broke quite close to Paris, and he lost twenty-four hours in mending it. See what it is to be & *pauvre diable*. Now, if Bourrienne had £200,000 of rentes, he would always be & *pauvre diable*. You see nothing is so important as not to be a *pauvre diable*!" This is Talleyrand all over. As he explained, perhaps at the same time, he had always been rich even in the United States, and not to have a carriage was an absurd idea to him.

Talleyrand did not, however, forget Bourrienne altogether. In the Memoirs, as the reader will remember,² Bourrienne represents his appointment as "Ministre d'Etat" (practically member of the Privy Council) as a special act of the King. It really was one of the little tricks at which Talleyrand was so clever. By not inserting Bourrienne's name in the list prepared to be laid before the King, and then representing Bourrienne's case as Louis was about to sign, Talleyrand got the appointment made without the objections which would otherwise have been pressed. The speedy fall of Talleyrand's ministry probably prevented Bourrienne appearing in a more prominent position than that in which we have to leave him.

It should, by the way, be remarked that while Bourrienne criticises so severely the proceedings of Napoleon's police, his qualifications (disqualifications, according to some persons) for the Prefecture of Police under the Eestoration were his knowledge of the modes of action of that very police and his tendency to adopt its violent methods. After his attack on Napoleon we cannot be sorry for the sharp lesson he, like so many others, received as to the inconstancy of the royal favor under the Eestoration.

The ruin of Bourrienne's mental

faculties is said to have

ⁱ *Vitrolles*, tome iii. p. 128. ² See *ante*, p. 240.